

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

What an amazing, fun-filled, exciting end to the Autumn term. We were delighted to welcome so many parents into school for shared Christmas Craft Activities. So many parents came into share a special Christmas moment with their child: creating a masterpiece along with memories to cherish.

Nursery pupils shared Christmas songs, Beech and Oak Reception Classes shared the Christmas Story and Key Stage 1 performed the Twinkly Nativity.

Across the school the Christmas spirit is building. The final few days of term bring our Christmas Church Service and Christmas lunch (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December) and our in-house carol sing along on the last morning.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support this year. Homework, reading records, PE kits, coats, lunches and water bottles are the daily essentials that keeps the wheels of learning moving. Activities such as the Christmas Jumper Day and the Christmas Fun Run are extra activities that enrich our school time together.

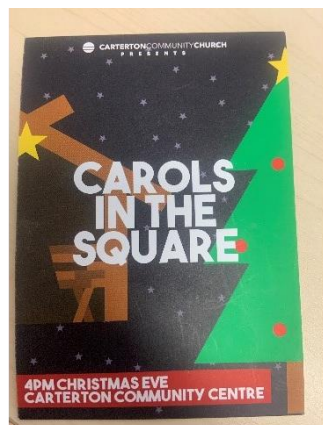
A huge thank you to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for their enthusiastic endeavours raising funds for the school and sharing experiences – school discos, Craft events, Wreath Making and the Chocolate Tombola. Your time and energy is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of all the staff and myself, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Kind regards,

*Marie Wargent*

**Acting Headteacher**



PS. I hope to see you at  
'Carols in the Square' 4pm Christmas Eve  
Marigold Square outside Carterton Community Centre

VALUE OF THE TERM

## RESPECT

We care for ourselves, each other, the environment and our community



*'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12*

Newsletters are published to the school website. The easiest way to receive newsletters is to subscribe to the newsletter through the school website, <http://www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk/news/newsletters> - this way you will be notified when a new letter is uploaded. In addition, our school website has all the recent newsletters and class letters on it, as well as lots of other information such as dinner menus. Add us to your favourites: [www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk)

We also use a text message service to send reminders to parents and Facebook to communicate school events and notices.

Find us on Facebook



at: @stjohnsschoolcarterton

## Recent Events



On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children. The Communication Team designed Christmas posters and displayed these around the school in preparation for the day. Lots of children came to school wearing Christmas jumpers and we raised a total of £290.12 for Save the Children. Thank you to everyone who was able to donate!

We hope you have a lovely Christmas, from the Communication Team.

(Written with support from William, Willow Class)

This term, Year 5 have been attending weekly lessons at Carterton Leisure Centre. It has been brilliant to see how absolutely every child has challenged themselves to develop both their swimming technique and their confidence in the water. Everybody has truly enjoyed our swimming sessions.



## Upcoming Events



**School Closes for Christmas Holidays - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm.**

**We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and will see you all on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

## PTA

*Thank you to everyone who has attended and supported our Christmas events so far, they have raised the following:*

*Christmas Shopping Evening **£475***

*Christmas Lights Switch On **£30***

*Christmas jumper sales **£40***

*Wreath workshops **£131***

*Elfridges was a great success with over £1000 worth of gifts being purchased and it was lovely to see the children excited to buy a special present for their loved ones.*

*We are still collecting donations to fill the festive sacks for the Christmas Tombola and there is still time to guess the name of the elf.*

*Christmas run poster put in with something along the lines of - please help your child to gain some sponsorship for their Christmas Run to raise funds for the Skateboard and Scooting Sessions during Healthy Living Week. Please can all sponsor forms and money be returned by Friday 19th January 2024.*



### We need your help to fill the festive sack!

The PTA are running a tombola on the last day of term where everyone can join in for a chance to win some lovely Christmas treats to take home and raise some funds to continue to support the school over the coming year.

We are challenging every class to fill the festive sack with Christmas goodies to use as the Tombola prizes. A sack has been placed in each classroom for the children to bring their donations in the run up to the end of term.

If you can donate any of the following items, we would be so, so grateful.

- ❖ Selection Boxes
- ❖ Christmas Sweets
- ❖ Chocolate Coins
- ❖ Boxes of Chocolates
- ❖ Chocolate Santa's, Snowmen and Reindeer
- ❖ Christmas Biscuits
- ❖ Christmas Cakes
- ❖ Mince Pies
- ❖ Christmas Pudding
- ❖ Stollen and Panettone
- ❖ Any yummy Christmas treats or food we've forgotten!

*Sorry - we cannot accept any fresh food, items that need to be refrigerated, or alcoholic drinks, so please don't bring these in!*

Festive sacks will be available in classrooms from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December so please bring any items in to class and place them in the sack before the last day of term!

The Tombola will be running at school pick up time on the last day of term, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December and we hope as many of you as possible can join us for a chance to win!

## PTA CHRISTMAS SPONSORED RUN

### CALLING ALL STJOHNS CHILDREN!

The PTA is organising the Christmas Fun run to raise money to fund two days of Scootering and skateboarding workshops (Team Rubicon) for St John's Children in May 2024 as part of our Healthy Living Week.

Starting Monday, December 11th, support your child in the challenge to complete as many laps around the school as possible during a time tailored to their year group and ability, as part of their P.E. lesson.

To donate and sponsor your child please use the sponsor forms supplied.

Look out for our Christmas special guests too!

**TEAM RUBICON**

## Library News

THE READING AGENCY Winter Mini Challenge

## Join the Ready, Set, Read! Winter Mini Challenge

from 1 December 2023

Get rewards for your reading

wintermini.org.uk

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

YOUTH SPORT TRUST INSPIRING ACTIVE READERS THE READING AGENCY

Illustrations by Lorella Schauer and logo artwork by Louise Evershed. All © The Reading Agency 2023

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### Winter Mini Challenge

It is almost time for the Winter Mini Challenge, connecting reading with sport and in conjunction with the Youth Sport Trust. All children are invited to take part.

**The Challenge start date: 1 December 2023**

**The Challenge end date: 19 February 2024**

**The challenge is completely online.** These are the key points:

1. Parents and carers can register their children from 1 December at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk). The website will have games, reading activities and book reviews. **Please note that this website will not go live until the first day of the Challenge.**
2. Children will re-join the six characters from the Summer Reading Challenge, as they go on a winter walk to the library.
3. They will unlock virtual rewards and a special certificate by rating and reviewing books.
4. A target of 3 books is recommended for children, who are asked to set their own reading challenge. Children can read any books, including eBooks or eAudio.



There is a themed collection of eBooks to download onto the library app (from Overdrive):  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ebooks](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ebooks).

This is a fun activity to encourage reading. Please help your children to access this Challenge.  
If you have any questions, please email [library@st-john.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:library@st-john.oxon.sch.uk).

Margaret Hewitt  
Librarian

# a Christmas reading with Helen Hawkins

**Carterton Library**  
**Tuesday 19th**  
**December**  
**5.30-6.30pm**



**Will you end your  
year on a high note?**

**Join us for mince pies  
& mulled wine.**

**Admission £2. Contact Carterton Library  
to book your place 01993 841492**

# General Reminders and Information



Dear Parents / Carers

Are you reading the information shared on Tapestry?

Last week only one parent acknowledged that homework had been set and that they had engaged with the learning.

As a school we need to be sure that this method is working for EYFS as it is so important to us that you are involved in school life. Once you have read the information, please click 'like'.

Through 'Tapestry' we share observations of your child's learning. These observations are one of the methods used for assessment so that we can track and report on your child's progress.

Where you can help... On the observation there will be identified next steps. This is one of the ways the partnership between school and home can really benefit your child. We ask that, out of school, you give your child the opportunity to have a go at the 'next step' and report back a quick note telling us what happened.

If you would like a quick demonstration or any help with this, please ask the Nursery / Reception team.



Attention KS1 & KS2 Parents

## ClassDojo

Dear Parents / Carers

Are you reading the information shared on Dojo?

Once you have read a story / information please can we ask that you 'like' the post so that we know you are getting this information.

As a school we need to be sure this method is working and it is really important to us that you are involved in school life.

We use Dojo as a way of keeping parents and carers informed as messages, events, both school events and PTA fundraising events. We share positive examples of pupils living our school values and in class stories, teachers share information about the learning that is happening in your child's class.

As always, we thank you for your support.

### Morning drop-off:

The school gates will be open from 8.35am, with leaders welcoming the children at the gates.

**The register will be taken at 8.45am and all children will be expected to be settled in class by this time. Lessons will start promptly at 8.50am.**

Year 1, 2, 3 and 6 children enter via the side gate (opposite the play park) Nursery, Reception, Year 4 and Year 5 children enter via the front gate.

Reception parents will be invited to drop the children off at the classroom door via the reception garden.

### After-school pick-up:

The school day will end at 3.15pm and parents are asked to pick children up from the outside classroom doors.

### Beach Club After-school Childcare Provision:

The after-school Beach Club provision will operate from 3.15pm to 5.15pm from September 2023.

Family Holidays in Term Time

Safeguarding Children

**Attendance regulations make clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

We do not authorise family holidays in term time, long weekends, or special visits/trips/half days for example. At the end of the school year we have blocked INSET days to support families in booking holidays before other schools across the country break up.

Changes to national regulations (from September 2022) has meant that the county council will issue penalty notices (fines) where unauthorised absences or holidays are taken in term time.

We take seriously our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements exist within our setting to identify and support those children who are suffering harm or are likely to suffer harm.

Find out more about our safeguarding procedures at:  
<https://www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding>

**Reminder to please cancel any pre-ordered lunches if your child is not attending school that day.**

## Pastoral Team News

Parents are very welcome to contact Alaina directly via email at [atabern@st-john.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:atabern@st-john.oxon.sch.uk) or her work mobile 07715 144381. Mrs Stainer can be contacted via the school office ([office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk), 01993 843124).

Over the course of the last school year, the Pastoral Team put together a series of videos detailing many of the topics covered in the Family Links Nurturing Programme. Those videos can be found via the following links:

Overview of topics - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkxFqxbWt6w&t=2s>

Praise is Magic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvgVCJVPhYq>

Creating Boundaries - <https://youtu.be/HGs1VVqZXGo>

Time to Calm Down - <https://youtu.be/8vPEf0XUydw>

Using Rewards - <https://youtu.be/-iphIEq4HXU>

Listening: <https://youtu.be/kWy7DYqvInM>

Choices: <https://youtu.be/wADKfAbIBn0>

Understanding Feelings: [https://youtu.be/Fk88KH\\_cM3c](https://youtu.be/Fk88KH_cM3c)

Understanding the Feelings and Behaviour of Children - [https://youtu.be/Z0lIyaK\\_QVY](https://youtu.be/Z0lIyaK_QVY)

Taking Time for Ourselves - <https://youtu.be/0zpa8Ncrm6o>

The Power of Play - <https://youtu.be/-VezCWn7wvo>

Diversion and Distraction - [https://youtu.be/FrMQ8\\_aNGDs](https://youtu.be/FrMQ8_aNGDs)

## Attendance and Punctuality

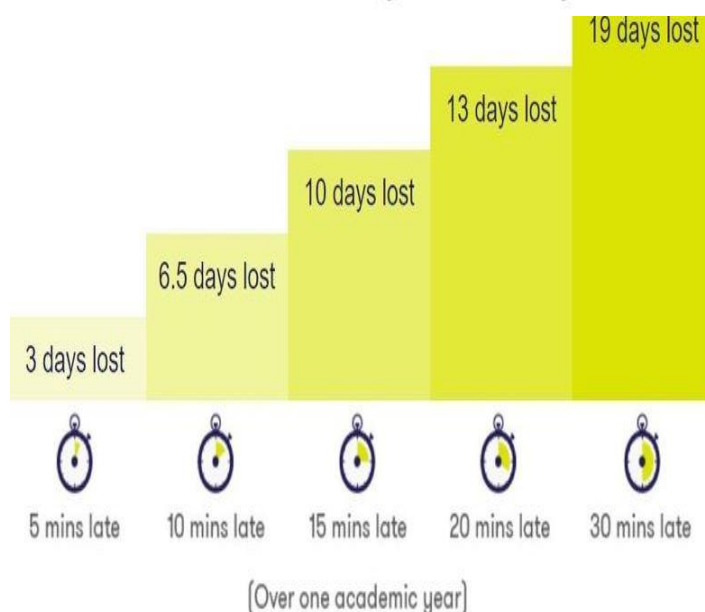
Each week we promote and celebrate good attendance across the school. Research shows that poor attendance limits pupils' life chances, impacts on their academic success but more worryingly adversely affects children socially and emotionally. We understand that children are unwell from time to time and would not want a child to be at school if they really shouldn't be. We would also like to remind parents that a child should be kept off school for 48 hours after a case of sickness or diarrhoea. If you are ever unsure whether to send your child to school or not, call and talk to Aliana at the school.

The following is the attendance by class for the last two weeks.

Class	w/b: 27/11	w/b: 4/12
Oak	91.7%	94.4%
Beech	92.0%	91.9%
Elm	91.7%	92.4%
H Chestnut	97.3%	95.7%
Ash	92.3%	94.7%
Hazel	96.9%	94.4%
Cedar	98.3%	97.4%
Rowan	98.0%	96.9%
Holly	94.5%	94.7%
Silver Birch	95.3%	97.2%
Sycamore	95.3%	96.8%
Maple	98.0%	96.8%
Walnut	95.0%	96.7%
Willow	100%	96.9%
<b>% Attendance Whole School</b>	<b>95.5%</b>	<b>95.5%</b>

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every school day counts.



## Term Dates

### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

#### Term 1

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

#### Term 2

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

#### Term 3

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### Term 4

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

#### Term 5

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

#### Term 6

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Christmas Performance  
 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Reception Christmas Performance  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Nursery Christmas songs with parents  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Yr3 trip to the Ashmolean Museum  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December: Church Service & Christmas lunch  
 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> End of term. School closes at 1.30pm

School starts back: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
 Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> January: Year 5 Young Voices



**INSET Days:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

May Day Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Caring for Others † Achieving Excellence

Oxfordshire Libraries 

# SHORT STORY

## WRITING COMPETITION!

Are you aged between 7 and 11?  
Do you love writing?

Why not have a go at writing a short story  
for our competition?

It can be on any topic and up to  
1,000 words long

The winning story will be published as an  
eBook for library members to borrow!

More information and instructions on how to enter can be  
found on the Oxfordshire Libraries website.

 @oxonlibraries      Entries open: **11 December 2023**  
 Oxfordshire Libraries      Closing date: **11 February 2024**

 [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition)



## Christmas EVENTS 2023



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 3pm – 7pm** Nativity Escape Room. Can you crack the codes, collect the key and escape? Refreshments after. Contact Wend for more details.



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30am** Crib Service: short service especially for the young or young at heart (about 50 minutes).



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 11.30pm** Midnight Communion  
**Christmas Day 10am** Christmas Day Communion.

For more info contact Gary on 07799 968408 [cfw@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk](mailto:cfw@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk) or Wend on 07492 925602 [acfm@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk](mailto:acfm@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk)

# CHRISTMAS CRAFT CARTERTON LIBRARY



**SATURDAY 16TH & 23RD  
DECEMBER 10AM-12PM**

No need to book, just drop in to make a red nose reindeer or Santa using crafting rolls, pom poms, cotton wool & googly eyes!



**activeCamps**  
School holiday multi-activity camps  
for children aged 4-14!

**Summer Fields School**

Christmas 18 - 22 December  
New Year 2 - 5 January

From **£46** per day

Book Now! [www.oxfordactive.co.uk](http://www.oxfordactive.co.uk)

The advertisement features three circular inset photos: a girl with reindeer antlers and a Santa cutout, a boy working on a craft, and a girl swimming with a life preserver. The background is green with white snowflakes and a yellow starburst.